

once embarked upon his transports, he might have turned the purpose of the French King to a great attack upon the Greek Empire, or upon Constantinople, while the Emperors of East and West should be deliberating there; and so at once have checked their designs against him, and carried out his uncle's ambition, the conquest or dismemberment of Greece, At least he might have made use of Louis in the Holy Land itself; and secured Antioch by his aid.

His plans however came to naught. The French King decided to follow the German host along the route taken by the First Crusade. On the 8th June, 1147, Conrad entered upon Hungarian soil, and in time, turning south from the Danube, arrived before Constantinople (loth September), The Byzantine diplomatists showed their skill in dealing with so great and undisciplined a host; ships were provided, and at the end of September the Greeks saw with relief the Teutons leaving for the Asiatic shore. A few days after, Louis and the French Crusaders neared the walls of the Greek capital,

Manuel had already suspected the alliance between Roger and the French King, At Regensburg two imperial envoys had already

demande
that if the French should conquer any
former
possession of the Empire from the
Turks, they
should hand it over to the Bastleua;
otherwise the
Greeks would provide no provisions
or guide,
But Louis had given no assurance on
the point,.